

**NARRATOR: Tate, Stan**  
**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**  
**DATE: July 19, 2000**  
**LOCATION: Moscow, Idaho**  
**PROJECT: Smokejumpers/Forest Fire Fighters**

**Tape**

<b>Counter</b>	<b>Summary</b>
000	Introduction.
010	Tate offered some details about his early life in Boise. His family owned the Triangle Dairy in Boise. He also said his family traces their history back to William Penn.
035	Tate wrote a book, <i>Jumping Skyward</i> , about his time as a smokejumper and a priest. He kept a journal while he was jumping, and in the early 1990s he took a leave from his work at St. Mark's Church in Moscow, Idaho, to turn his journal into a book. He talked about his and others relationships with nature, a good friend who was a fellow smokejumper, and two New Jersey men wrongly convicted of a murder, became a three-prong focus for the book.
095	Tate talked about a death penalty symposium in New Jersey in September 2000 where one of the two wrongly accused men will speak about his time in the "death house" in New Jersey.
125	Tate talked in detail about the journal he kept. He also talked about the specific years he jumped for the Forest Service. During the non-fire seasons, he worked in various religious jobs.
155	During one fire season, Tate worked as a magistrate judge. He told a story about praying for rain to stop the fires.
180	Tate gave his opinions about the Mann Gulch fire in 1949 and the Storm King fire in 1994. Tate told a story about two of the three survivors of the Mann Gulch fire and about presiding over the funeral of some of the casualties of the Storm King fire.
235	In Tate's book he told a story about the death of his hero—Ken Salyer--and a pilot--Skip Knapp. Tate told the story in detail about the plane crash, their deaths, and the funeral service.
280	Lynn Clark, a female pilot mentioned in Tate's book, recently passed away. Tate told about her funeral service and the similarities to the funeral service for Skip Knapp, the pilot who died in the plane crash. Tate

and Clark took many flights where Tate performed “Airborne Counseling.”

350 Tate talked about women smokejumpers. Tate mentioned some tension between female smokejumpers and the old-time jumpers.

380 Smokejumping offered Tate an experience that has never been equaled. Tate has kept in touch with his former smokejumpers for that reason. Tate told a story about Smoky Stover’s speech before a memorial service where Stover talked about the smokejumpers’ relationship with God.

445 For Tate, being a smokejumper gave him an opportunity to do a worthwhile physical activity. Tate spent some time with his sister, who worked on a lookout, and he witnessed some smokejumpers landing on a fire. He immediately knew he wanted to be a smokejumper.

480 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**TAPE ONE SIDE TWO**

005 Tate recalled his interest in theology and what led him to become a priest. He has focused on ministering to youth, but he does general ministering for the Episcopal Church. He also talked about his ministry to the smokejumpers and their families.

040 Tate told a story from his book when his main chute failed to open. A fellow smokejumper, Ed Guy, was watching from the plane and prayed for Tate’s life. Tate felt that is what helped him to pull the cord on his auxiliary chute.

065 For the book Tate changed the names of the characters. He talked about why he did that and how he decided what names to use in the place of their real names.

090 The main character in Tate’s book was based on two men—Ken Salyer and John Shuler. Tate discussed John Shuler’s role in shaping the main character.

130 Smokejumpers do not necessarily follow a spiritual path. Tate discussed how he balanced his religious beliefs with smokejumping. He never felt “holier than Thou,” and that fact is why the smokejumpers accepted him and looked to him for counsel.

175 Tate discussed his relationship with Wayne Webb, a well-known smokejumper. He also talked about his spiritual relationship with other smokejumpers and pilots.

- 200 Tate felt that smokejumpers and others involved in fire trusted Tate through seeing how Tate worked on the fire line beside them. He earned their trust by being one of them.
- 235 On some jumps Tate lost his concentration between jumping from an airplane and landing. Tate talked about the experience of jumping and landing, mentioning some of his specific jumps and landing. Tate reminded the interviewer that smokejumping was just a means to the end, which was putting out a fire.
- 300 Tate recalled the physical training involving in being a smokejumper, specifically the first summer he jumped. Someone who served in the Airborne Division during World War II told Tate that the training for smokejumping was tougher than the military training.
- 340 Along with the physical training, Tate described the mental training involved in fighting fire. He took many classes about fire, and he took the safety lessons he learned to heart and passed them on to his children. Tate talked about the science of fire, particularly the time of day fire burns its hottest and coolest.
- 425 Smokejumping practiced certain rites of passages that veteran jumping performed on the rookies or “neds.” He talked about when he worked in McCall as a priest, not a smokejumper. He and Ken Smith, another former jumper, would help with the initiation ceremonies. Tate also described the difference between the smokejumpers’ rites of passage and hazing.
- 495 **END OF TAPE ONE**  
**TAPE TWO SIDE ONE**
- 000 Introduction.
- 005 Tate told a story about an argument with Bruce Yergenson over who was the “ned” between the two of them. This argument ensued when Tate officiated at Yergenson’s wedding.
- 030 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**END OF INTERVIEW**

## NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Bailey, Benjamin  
Beasley, Ray  
Boise, Idaho  
Clark, Lynn  
Crosby, Gene  
Deffler, Sam  
Guy, Ed  
Helena, Montana  
Idaho City, Idaho  
*Jumping Skyward* (book written by Stan Tate)  
Knapp, Skip  
*Knowing God in Nature* (book written by Stan Tate)  
Mann Gulch Fire (1999, Montana)  
McCall, Idaho  
Penn, William  
Phillips, Bud  
Princeton University  
Rumsey, Walt  
Sallee, Robert  
Salmon, Idaho  
Salyer, Ken “Moose”  
Shuler, John  
Shuler, Marilyn  
Smith, Ken  
Sprague, Lynn  
St. Mark’s Church (Moscow, Idaho)  
Storm King Fire (1994, Colorado)  
Stover, Smoky  
Tate, Lynn Campbell  
Trenton, New Jersey  
Triangle Dairy (South Boise, ID)  
Webb, Wayne  
Williams, Bland  
Williams, Eugene  
Yergenson, Bruce

**NARRATOR: Tate, Stan**

**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**

**DATE: September 22, 2000**

**LOCATION: Moscow, Idaho**

**PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting**

**Tape**

<b>Counter</b>	<b>Summary</b>
000	Introduction.
010	Stan Tate's family owned Triangle Dairy in Boise, Idaho. Tate worked for the farm from his early years through high school. He talked about the work he did at the dairy and also when he worked as a pastor in Miles City, Montana.
040	Tate's sister spent a summer in the late 1940s/early 1950s as a Forest Service lookout. His sister and her husband worked at the lookout.
055	When Tate spent his first year as a smokejumper, the veteran smokejumpers performed a rite of passage on Tate and the other rookies. Tate told the story about the night of the rite of passage.
075	Tate wrote a fictional account, <i>Jumping Skyward</i> , about his time as a smokejumper. He talked about a Native American, who Tate put in his book as a member of his jumping squad. Tate explained who that character was based on. He also described a conversation he had with a Nez Perce man who criticized Tate for his use of Native American religion in his book.
120	During Tate's time as a smokejumper (1950s and 1960s), they took specific equipment to fight a fire. Tate detailed what tools they would or could use to battle blazes. Tate talked about digging a fire line, using shovels, pulaskis, and saws.
160	According to Tate, chainsaws really aided smokejumpers in fighting a fire. He talked about the difference between using a crosscut saw and a chainsaw. Early chainsaws worked better, but they were big machines.
180	Tate described the specific length, width, and depth of a fire line. He explained that the size of the fire line depended upon the type of fire they were fighting.
205	Tate detailed the steps smokejumpers took from the time they heard the fire bell until they returned to the smokejumpers' base camp. Tate described his last jump when landed on a big rock, fell off of it, and hurt his knee. That knee still troubles him. Tate also talked about fighting fire

in the evening when the fire had subsided, and about watching the stars in the sky as he fell asleep in the late evening/early morning.

425 By answering the interviewer's question, Tate described how communication and transportation affected the length of time that smokejumpers would stay at a fire. Tate stated that the spotter, the pilot, and the jumpers had a basic idea of how long it would take the jumpers to contain a fire.

485 Tate explained his most memorable pack out, which he put into his book. It was a fire near Hells Canyon that a sheepherder had contained by the time the jumpers arrived.

505 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**TAPE ONE SIDE TWO**

000 When the packer arrived to take Tate and the other smokejumpers from that Hells Canyon fire, he rode a mule down the canyon trails. Tate thoroughly enjoyed traveling down the canyon to the Snake River. Tate also told a story about a pack out from John Day, Oregon. He and another smokejumper were guests of honor at a festival in John Day. They had to leave during the festivities to return to McCall to jump on a fire.

040 Tate described the buildings at the smokejumper camp in McCall. Tate called it his "home away from home." Tate also talked about the make up of McCall in the 1950s and 1960s. Tate mentioned specific businesses in the town and told a story about rolling silver dollars on Main Street to see how far they could go.

095 Another town smokejumpers frequented was Salmon. Tate recalled his memories about Salmon, including some of his stories that made it into his book.

140 Tate, with prompting from the interviewer, described a burnt over area that he hiked through on occasions. An article in the *Idaho Statesman* detailed Tate and that area, which was where Tate fought his first fire. Tate talked about what he has thought about when he has walked through or seen an area that fire has changed. He offered his opinions about logging healthy trees in a burnt over area.

225 A United Airlines pilot wrote Tate a letter after reading Tate's book. The pilot's son died in a plane crash, and this man wrote Tate about how Tate's book helped him through his son's death.

295 Tate's bioethics has provided him an occupation during his later years. He described what bioethics is and how he has used it, particularly in a

hospital setting, during his later career as a minister. He also talked about how he became involved in bioethics.

390 Smokejumpers have hailed Tate as “Idaho’s Smokejumping Chaplain.”  
Tate has seen this as a badge of honor, and he explains how he received this unofficial title. Tate told a story about Bob and Margaret Fogg’s son, Bobby, who died as a young adult.

500 **END OF SIDE TWO**  
**TAPE TWO SIDE ONE**

000 Tate described marriage ceremonies he performed as a priest and as his time as a probate judge for Valley County.

020 Tate talked about how he deals with death, particularly the death of young people. He believed through his faith that this life has served as a stepping-stone to future lives. Tate described a symposium he would attend the next week that dealt with the death penalty. Tate has felt more aware of death as he has aged.

105 Tate was experiencing back pain during the interview, and he explained why he has this pain.

120 Tate’s relationship with nature started during his time at the Triangle Dairy, but it grew during his time as a smokejumper. He talked about how animals hold a great role in his book and about how smokejumpers in general could attain a reverence for nature.

165 Tate concluded this interview with why he decided to become a smokejumper. He did it, because he wanted to see if he could, and he remember the euphoria from training, jumping, and fighting fire. He compared landing to catching a touchdown pass.

230 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**END OF INTERVIEW**

## NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Beasley, Ray  
Boise, Idaho  
Corvallis, Oregon  
Deadwood Reservoir  
Fogg, Bob  
Fogg, Bob (Junior)  
Fogg, Margaret  
Graham, Bob  
Hells Canyon  
Hotel McCall  
Jerry (?) [United Airlines pilot]  
John Day, Oregon  
*Jumping Skyward*  
Malheur National Forest  
McCall, Idaho  
Miles City, Montana  
Prejean, Sister Helen [author of book *Dead Man Walking*]  
Shore Lodge  
Snake River  
Stadium Theater  
Stockwell's [McCall grocery store]  
Sun Rhodes, Dennis  
*Telephone Creek* (a 1950s film about smokejumping)  
Triangle Dairy  
Whitehawk Lookout  
Williams, Bland  
Wind River, Wyoming  
Yergenson, Bruce  
Yergenson, Doris



**NARRATOR: Tate, Stan**  
**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**  
**DATE: October 27, 2000**  
**LOCATION: Moscow, Idaho**  
**PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting**

**Tape**

<b>Counter</b>	<b>Summary</b>
000	Introduction.
015	In September 2000 Tate attended an interfaith death penalty conference in New Jersey. He described his role in the conference and some key members of the conference, particularly Bland Williams, who served on death row in Trenton, New Jersey, for numerous years. Tate worked to get Williams and his brother Eugene released from prison during the 1950s and 1960s.
085	During the 1950s Tate met Eleanor Roosevelt near Philadelphia. Tate told about that and about his uncle's interest in history. Tate met Roosevelt and Mrs. Duke Biddle at the Biddle Estate. Roosevelt wanted to know about smokejumping, so Tate told numerous smokejumping stories to Roosevelt.
140	In the early days of television, Tate made it onto several television shows, including <i>To Tell the Truth</i> and <i>What's My Line</i> . He also had a letter read on <i>The Today Show</i> . Tate also told a story about a fellow smokejumper, Tom Decker, who jumped into a nudist colony. Decker made an appearance on the show, <i>I've Got a Secret</i> .
195	With prompting from the interviewer, Tate discussed his time at Boise High School. He talked about his leadership roles during high school. He also mentioned the goal to be popular in high school. Tate gave a speech at high school graduation and talked about how the speech and award he received prepared him for later life.
265	Tate tried to use humor during his time in high school. He told a story about taking a speech class and giving an after dinner speech. He thought it was going to be funny but no one laughed. The class agreed that they would not laugh during his speech.
305	Tate described the role in high school of the dean of boys' and dean of girls'. Tate felt he had emotional problems in high school, and the dean of boys', Larry Woods, helped Tate when he had tough times. Tate also told a story about Clara Otness, the dean of girls,' who laughed at one of Tate's attempts at humor.

- 360 During his junior year in high school Tate had reached the highest rank possible in ROTC. He marched his troop over an ROTC officer's car; Tate felt this man was too arrogant and needed to be taught a lesson. The ROTC busted Tate down to a private; they cut off his sergeant stripes.
- 405 Tate clarified what he meant by having emotional problems, concerning his family. His family ran the Triangle Dairy in Boise. The major problems came from the idea of primogeniture, which means the oldest sibling received all the assets. Tate was not the oldest, and he watched the Dairy and later endeavors be controlled by the oldest siblings in the Tate clan. When he was younger, he did not understand why primogeniture meant so much. He placed much of this conflict in his book, *Jumping Skyward*.
- 485 In his book Tate detailed the idea of home. Home for Tate became the Idaho wilderness, not the family home in Boise.
- 500 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**TAPE ONE SIDE TWO**
- 000 Tate described extracurricular activities he did while growing up in Boise. He truly felt that he got along with all of the classmates. He talked about remodeling a building during high school that became a place for youth to hang out. He also held hayrides out at the dairy. Boise had many movie theaters, and Tate and his friends attended movies. He also drove his friends and their dates to activities in one of the Triangle Dairy's delivery trucks.
- 050 When Tate returned to Boise in the 1970s, Mayor Jay Amyx asked Tate to start a youth program, called Youth Alternatives. Tate described the aspects of that program, which was designed to keep kids away from drugs.
- 070 After high school graduation, Tate attended the University of Idaho. He talked about why he wanted to attend school at this university. His interest in 4-H and his trips to Moscow for 4-H really aided his choice to attending the University of Idaho.
- 085 During his time at University of Idaho, Tate decided he wanted to go into the ministry. He pursued a philosophy degree to help his goal of becoming a minister.
- 115 In Tate's book, *Jumping Skyward*, he quoted numerous philosophers. Tate described his own study in philosophy, including his more recent work in medical bioethics, and how it pervaded his book. He also talked about

treating people as an end and not a means, which is a philosophy, from Emmanuel Kant, that he detailed in his book.

- 175 At University of Idaho Tate missed out on being Phi Beta Kappa, but he attained high grades. Today, Tate wondered why he did not learn more while in college, but he spent time helping other students become better.
- 205 Tate mentioned how he ended up in graduate school at Princeton Theological Seminary, which is part of Princeton University. He initially desired to attend seminary at University of Chicago, because he liked their philosophy and his father attended the university. His family told him they would help him financially if he attended Princeton, so that's where he ended up.
- 250 The Masters in Divinity, according to Tate, was a difficult degree. He described all the requirements, including the course work and fieldwork. He explained the travails he, his wife, and young child faced during their three years at Princeton. He felt that people do not understand what it took to earn that degree.
- 310 Tate told the story about how he met his wife. He needed to attend his sister's wedding, so he hitchhiked from McCall directly from finishing a fire. His future wife's uncle, Dick Campbell, picked him up and told Tate about his niece. His future wife attended University of Idaho also, so they met there, dated, and became engaged. The next time Tate met Dick Campbell was at Tate's wedding with Lynn Campbell.
- 355 With prompting from the interviewer, Tate described what he thought the difference was between being religious and being spiritual. Tate has seen spiritual people both inside and outside organized religion.
- 420 In his book Tate wrote, "Some Christians avoid Petula Clarks and casinos." He explained to the interviewer what he meant by that sentence. He tried to show that Christians should help people regardless of where they spend their time.
- 500 **END OF SIDE TWO**  
**END OF INTERVIEW**

**NAMES AND PLACES INDEX**

4-H

Biddle, Mrs. Duke

Boise High School

Boise, Idaho

Campbell, Dick

Campbell, Lynn

Decker, Tom

Gerner, Lum

*I've Got a Secret*

James, William [philosopher]

*Jumping Skyward* [book by Stan Tate]

Kant, Emmanuel [philosopher]

Kleffner, Flip

Moot, Dr. Lloyd

Murray's Drive In (Boise)

Otness, Clara

Prejean, Sister Helen

Princeton University

Roosevelt, Eleanor

Sorrels, Rosalie

Tate, David

Tate, Miles

*To Tell the Truth*

*The Today Show*

Triangle Dairy (Boise)

University of Idaho

*What's My Line*

Williams, Bland

Williams, Eugene

Woods, Larry

**NARRATOR: Tate, Stan**

**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**

**DATE: March 13, 2001**

**LOCATION: Moscow, Idaho**

**PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting**

**Tape**

**Counter**

**Summary**

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000	Introduction.
010	Tate began this interview by discussing the importance of communication in fighting fires. He mentioned the importance of communication about the fire before the smokejumpers left the ground and left the airplane. He also talked about the first radios that smokejumpers used to communicate, mainly with the airplane.
045	During one fire Tate suffered from appendicitis, and, thanks to having a radio on that fire, he was able to get back to the hospital to have his appendix removed. He also described a more recent fire—the Storm King fire in Colorado in 1994—and one of Tate’s friends who spoke about the communications during that particular fire.
085	Tate stressed the importance of communication among smokejumpers while fighting a fire. He said that smokejumpers tried to stay within yelling distance of each other and tried to communicate with other jumpers by “hooting” at one another. He offered his opinions about the Mann Gulch fire in Montana in 1949.
125	With prompting from the interviewer, Tate discussed the importance of leadership on a fire. He furnished an example of leadership on the first fire he jumped on. One jumper, Miles Johnson, showed his leadership skills on that fire. He mentioned that Johnson eventually worked for the CIA in the covert operations in Laos during the Vietnam War.
170	In Tate’s book, <i>Jumping Skyward</i> , he told a story about helping a smokejumper that helped him earlier. He talked about this particular story, and he said that story was based on actual events.
235	Tate’s book was based on journals he kept during his time as a smokejumper. He talked about why and when he began to take notes on his time as a jumper. He told a story about a present-day author who contacted Tate about some of the stories he told in his book, <i>Jumping Skyward</i> .
285	In <i>Jumping Skyward</i> Tate’s character meditated on several occasions. He talked about when he began to meditate and how his meditation has

changed over time. He also mentioned how he incorporated his own words into his own meditation.

360 During his life Tate taught courses at several universities, including Boise State University, University of Idaho, and Oregon State University. He talked about the opportunities and challenges about teaching young adults about religion and ethics. He specifically talked about his time teaching religion and philosophy at Boise State University.

435 At Oregon State University Tate guest taught at classes and led meditation classes. He continued to talk about his time at Oregon State University, particularly why he went to Oregon State University and how he helped build a meditation chapel on campus.

505 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**TAPE ONE SIDE TWO**

000 At this chapel people could bring in slides of their favorite places to watch while they meditated. Tate lived and worked in Corvallis, Oregon, [home of Oregon State University] for four years in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He talked about seeing former Governor Cecil Andrus at Oregon State University. Tate and Andrus had known each other before this meeting, so Andrus pulled himself away from an interview to talk to Tate.

030 Tate ran for the Idaho Senate in the 1970s. Tate won that election that night, but after the absentee ballots were counted, he lost the election. Tate mentioned that he became friends with Andrus even before that election.

050 During one visit to the Governor Andrus' office, Tate felt compelled to stop by a communal house in Boise. He told them that the corn on the dairy Tate lived on was ready to be picked. The man ran the house, according to Tate, and yelled to the others, "Okay, the corn is in. Now pray for onions."

075 Tate talked about the differences between students, both in age [Tate has ministered to all ages of youth] and during his time teaching at campuses throughout the U.S. West, particularly in terms of gaining control of their own lives. He talked about one particular student at Boise State—Henry Hensheid—he and Tate helped to craft a student rights' document. He continued to describe the differences—particularly in terms of public service and human rights—among the students at Boise State, Oregon State, and University of Idaho.

140 Tate mentioned some women who he taught who have become leaders in various causes in their adult life. His favorite student was Linda

Kingsbury, and he talked about her studies, and reasons why Tate has found her to be his favorite student.

- 185 Tate offered his opinions about why he has fought for the rights of children, youth, or the accused, during his life. He talked about how events in his early life probably shaped his struggle to fight for these groups. He continued to discuss the people he mentored during his time teaching at universities.
- 265 One of Tate's cousins that dealt with some of the same issues and problems as Tate expressed his outrage by joining a white supremacy group in northern Idaho. Through answering an interviewer's question, Tate gave his thoughts about why his cousin followed the path he did, and he talked about how his role in the history of a local church was not written while his older brother's role was included. He talked about another cousin, a female, who committed suicide. So, each of the three cousins took different paths to express their problems with their families.
- 340 During a previous interview, Tate told a story about humiliating a drill sergeant in his high school ROTC group. He talked about the reasons why he did what he did to that sergeant. [Tate led a company in his high school ROTC; he marched them on top of the drill sergeant's car.] Tate said he wondered about why he did a lot of things he did during his life. He continued to say that he might have accomplished more by staying away from confrontation instead of embracing it.
- 415 During 1965 Tate was sent to Watts, California, during and after the race riots as part of an Episcopalian church group. He talked about what this group tried to accomplish during that summer. He said that particular experience led him to become a judge and to fight for the rights of students at Boise State.
- 455 Tate did mention that he had some regrets about spending that summer in Watts.
- 465 **END OF SIDE TWO**  
**TAPE TWO SIDE ONE**
- 000 Tate explained his major regret about going to Watts. One of the leaders of the civil rights movement taught people to be confrontational. Tate came back to Idaho confronting people on tough issues instead of negotiating. He mentioned specifically a battle with his family over their developmental company that sold portions of the dairy as real estate land.
- 035 Tate talked about being in Watts in 1965. He said that when he went somewhere in Watts he went with either an African American or a

Hispanic. He told a story about working in Philadelphia with convicts; he took a letter to a woman who was divorcing her jail-bound husband. He felt that doing that for this prisoner made him free from harm while in prison.

- 075 Tate continued to talk about taking stands on issues. He helped one female student who suffered a nervous breakdown during the school's semester. He took her to a hospital because the college counselors were busy working on private ventures. Tate then talked about how sometimes when he took a stand, the people who he stood against handily defeated him.
- 115 During Tate's first year as a smokejumper, the jumpers put forth some work issues to the higher ups in the Forest Service and in Congress. Tate said Wayne Webb fought for the smokejumpers, and that fight led Webb to not receive promotions in the future.
- 145 With prompting from the interviewer, Tate talked about what he had applied from his youth and his family life to his children. He felt that besides his daughter, his other children have not become involved in community activities.
- 185 In a previous interview, Tate mentioned his involvement in 4-H. He talked about how this group affected his young life. He said that 4-H and his involvement in church groups really helped his maturation. He talked about how he became involved in 4-H as an adult leader, because 4-H's leaders wanted to develop the children's well being. He offered a story about a particular session at a 4-H state meeting about how children can survive incest; he said that session went on for hours.
- 260 In the past few years, school shootings seem to be on the rise. Tate offered his opinions on how, if possible, to prevent these school shootings. He felt that any solution to this problem involved many different ideas.
- 320 Tate talked about the importance of communication in terms of working with children, in terms of between student and teacher, parent and child, and among students.
- 355 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**END OF INTERVIEW**



## **NAMES AND PLACES INDEX**

Alinsky, Saul [author *Reveille for Radicals*]  
Andrus, Cecil  
Barnes, Dr. John [President of Boise State University]  
*Boise State University*  
Bureau of Land Management  
*Burgdorf, Idaho*  
Corvallis, Oregon  
Crosby, Gene  
David, Chuck  
Davis, Dean  
*Fly the Biggest Piece Back* [book by Steve Smith]  
Hensheid, Henry  
Johnson, Miles  
*Jumping Skyward* [book by Stan Tate]  
Kingsbury, Linda  
Lakewood Development Company [Boise, Idaho]  
Mann Gulch fire [Montana, 1949]  
McCall, Idaho  
Oregon State University  
*Rosencrantz, Les*  
Smith, Steve  
Spence, John W. [smokejumper in 1950s]  
Storm King (or South Mountain) fire [Colorado, 1994]  
Triangle Dairy [Boise, Idaho]  
United States Forest Service  
University of Idaho  
Watts, California [1965 riots]  
Webb, Wayne  
Williams, Bland  
Williams, Eugene

**NARRATOR: Tate, Stan**

**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**

**DATE: June 29, 2001**

**LOCATION: McCall, Idaho**

**PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting**

**Tape**

**Counter**

**Summary**

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000	Introduction.
010	The Tate family has held a prominent place in Boise history. Tate talked about how his family legacy helped and hindered him while he grew up.
050	Tate mentioned that he did not receive punishment for some of his more juvenile actions. He offered an example of one of those times, when he was caught changing a price on a notebook.
090	Both of Tate's grandmothers were living when Tate grew up. He talked about his relationships with his grandma Tate and his grandma Davis. Tate's maternal grandparents did not achieve financial success in Idaho, and it affected both of them. Tate's paternal grandmother came to Idaho from Kansas, and Tate did not achieve a strong relationship with her. Tate talked briefly about his paternal grandfather, John P. Tate I.
215	Tate described his relationship with his father, John P. Tate II. His relationship with his father was strained from the beginning; his mother was overprotective and spoiled him.
265	With prompting from the narrator, Tate summarized his relationship with his two sisters, Leora Elizabeth and Emma Susanne. His sisters' relationship with their parents exemplified the difference between the Davis side and Tate side of the family. Leora, who they called Betty, served—with her husband—on the lookout in the late 1940s/early 1950s.
360	Tate talked about how his family background shaped his life, both his successes and failures. He mentioned his teaching experience and his job as the ombudsman at Boise State University, specifically his tempestuous relationship with the university's president—John Barnes.
490	<b>END OF SIDE ONE</b> <b>TAPE ONE SIDE TWO</b>
000	Tate mentioned an article in the Boise State University's <i>Arbiter</i> about his conflict with Dr. John Barnes. He told a story about how Barnes wanted Tate to move his office into the administration wing. Tate did not move his desk, because he did not want to quash the trust with the students.

- 040 In his life Tate stood up for the people who did not or could not stand up for themselves. He said that these stands led to several mistakes and failures in his life.
- 060 Turning the interview to smokejumping, Tate offered his opinions about jumping on a fire near night fall and fighting fire at night. Tate told two stories about fighting fires at night; he jumped on one fire where he landed without injury, missing a steel stake planted into the ground by a few feet.
- 185 On June 1, 2001, Tate participated in a roundtable for a Boise State University's Anthropology Department's Symposium on wildland fire. He told a story about a fire jump during the roundtable session about mockingly chopping down a tree with a fellow smokejumper, Max Allen, still in it. Tate retold that story for the recording.
- 265 In his fictional account of smokejumping, *Jumping Skyward*, Tate's narrator is a part of the "Seven Squad." Tate told the real story about his first year of jumping, (he was part of the "brush jumpers" and worked piling brush for part of the summer), and the people who comprised the "Seven Squad." Most of the squad was based on real people, (or a conglomeration of people), except for the Native American jumper.
- 350 One of the "Seven Squad," John "Tex" Lewis, became a close friend of Tate's. Tate talked about how Lewis and another jumper, Darrell Eubanks, died in Southeast Asia, while working for Air America. Tate told a story about a dream he had on the night that Lewis and Eubanks died; in the dream Tate and some other jumpers died in an automobile crash. Lewis and Eubanks died almost exactly how Tate and the other jumpers died in his dream. Tate continued to describe his last meeting with Lewis before he left for Southeast Asia.
- 430 Tate mentioned the other jumpers who served as the basis for the final members of the "Seven Squad." He talked particularly about the fictional women chaser in the squad; he described why he used that squad member as the person who his fictional hero tried to save.
- 500 **END OF SIDE TWO**  
**TAPE TWO SIDE ONE**
- 000 [No introduction.] If Tate were to write a sequel to *Jumping Skyward*, he wanted to use the women chaser as the new, Christ-like hero. Tate talked about the letters he received from smokejumpers' wives; they asked Tate if their husbands were the women chaser on the squad. Tate wrote a disclaimer to put in the smokejumpers' newsletter stating that the women chasing character was not based on one particular person.

- 060 With prompting from the interviewer, Tate described the challenges and opportunities involved in being an author. Since there have been many different books about smokejumping, Tate felt he needed to focus on God, nature, and spirituality. Tate talked about the importance of Jesus, specifically Jesus' views about the environment. Tate mentioned how the multi-faceted approach to his novel probably failed, but the smokejumpers eventually discussed the importance of God to smokejumpers.
- 165 In *Jumping Skyward* Tate quoted from philosophers and poets. He explained why he used the words of other writers, including parts of a poem from Wordsworth, excerpts from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and ideas from the philosopher Kant. Tate explained how he used excerpts from Kant to propound the idea of treating people and nature as ends and not means.
- 240 Tate described some of the classes he taught at universities in Idaho and Oregon. These classes included a religion class at Boise State University, and a detailed explanation of an ethics class at University of Idaho, including his lecture style and his reading list.
- 340 Tate talked about veteran smokejumpers—including Miles Johnson, Carl Roselli, Wayne Webb, and “Paperlegs” Peterson—that helped him learn about smokejumping and forest fire fighting.
- 385 In 1972 Tate ran for the state legislature. He explained why he decided to run for a seat.
- 440 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**END OF INTERVIEW**

## **NAMES AND PLACES INDEX**

Alinsky, Saul  
Allen, Max  
Barnes, John  
Boise State University  
Boise, Idaho  
Davis, James Harvey  
Davis, Leora  
Eubanks, Darrell “Yogi”  
Garfield School [Boise, Idaho]  
Gekeler Family [Boise, Idaho]  
Graham, Leora Elizabeth [Tate]  
Guy, Ed  
Hells Canyon  
Johnson, Miles  
*Jumping Skyward* [book written by Stan Tate]  
Kopke, Emma Susanne [Tate]  
Krassel Creek [Idaho]  
Lewis, John “Tex”  
McNaughton’s Ridge fire [an area near Chamberlain Basin]  
Peterson, “Paperlegs”  
Phillips, Bud  
Rosseli, Carl  
Salyer, Ken  
Tate, Charles Gekeler  
Tate, Emma [Gekeler]  
Tate, John P. I  
Tate, John P. II  
Tate, John P. III  
Tate, Lynn Campbell  
Taylor, Murray  
Wasmuth, Bill  
Webb, Wayne

**NARRATOR: Tate, Stan**

**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**

**DATE: September 27, 2001**

**LOCATION: Moscow, Idaho**

**PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting**

**Tape**

<b>Counter</b>	<b>Summary</b>
000	Introduction.
010	Tate described some of his fieldwork at Princeton University. He also mentioned the various job offers he received. He chose a job at a community church in Hysham, Montana.
035	Tate offered an overview of his working life, starting with his job in Hysham, Montana. He also mentioned returning to the church in the spring of 2001 to minister for a few weeks.
065	After leaving Montana, Tate moved to McCall, Idaho to work at a community church. During this time he also served as the chaplain for the Idaho Air National Guard.
125	During his time in McCall, Tate worked with the area's youth as a probation officer, and within the community church. He was also elected probate judge of Valley County.
175	After McCall Tate moved to Boise and worked at Boise State College (now Boise State University). He told a story about creating a group of local ministers and clergy that held meetings on the campus. After leaving Boise State College he worked on a drug program for the city of Boise.
205	Tate offered an overview of his work experience, both within and outside organized religion, from the late 1970s to the present. He worked as a minister in Idaho and Oregon, and he became a pastoral ethicist or bioethicist for hospitals in and around Moscow, Idaho. He also earned a Ph.D. in medical bioethics.
260	With prompting from the interviewer, Tate offered a more detailed overview of his work at the community church in Hysham, Montana. He told a few stories about his time in Hysham, including one about helping a young man who stole a car, was caught, and thrown in jail.
365	Tate talked about why he took his ministry outside of the church walls. He stated that he modeled his ministry after Jesus Christ.

- 405 During his time in McCall Tate received a call from the leadership of the Episcopal Church to serve with a national group of minister to try to help people outside the church walls. He told a story about spending the summer in Watts, California, during the summer of 1965.
- 455 While in Hysham Tate continued to smokejump during the summer in McCall. He hired a student minister to work at the Hysham parish while he went to McCall.
- 475 **END OF SIDE ONE**  
**TAPE ONE SIDE TWO**
- 000 Tate explained why he became interested in being ordained in the Episcopal Church. He said that ever since he attended school in Princeton, he wanted to be involved with both the Presbyterian and Episcopalian ministries. He eventually dropped the Presbyterian and ministered solely with the Episcopalian.
- 045 Bishop Foote, the Episcopal Bishop of Idaho, worked out of Paradise Point on Payette Lake. He explained how he learned about Bishop Foote and the Paradise Point camp.
- 065 With prompting from the interviewer, Tate discussed his memories of Bishop Foote. He also told a story about Bishop Foote meeting with a reporter from a New York newspaper. Tate also talked about his (and Foote's) idea of churches working together to help people.
- 180 Tate told a story about nearly drowning off the waters of Paradise Point while playing a practical joke on kids attending a dance in one of the church camp buildings.
- 240 Tate talked about his work at St. Andrews by the Lake in McCall. He talked about taking the ministry outside the church and working as probate judge. He told two stories about people he helped as youths in McCall.
- 320 Tate talked about how he married people that had been divorced through his role as a judge, not as a minister. He also mentioned his ministry to smokejumpers.
- 360 With prompting from the interviewer, Tate talked about why he moved from McCall to Boise in the early 1970s. He lost his job as judge and could not afford to minister in McCall. He also talked about the conflicts within his family when he moved back to Boise.
- 470 **END OF SIDE TWO**  
**END OF INTERVIEW**

**NAMES AND PLACES INDEX**

Bishop Foote (Episcopal Bishop of Idaho)  
Bishop Treinen (Catholic Bishop of Idaho)  
Boise State College (now Boise State University)  
Boise, Idaho  
Cascade, Idaho  
Corvallis, Oregon  
Fee, Jeff  
Gritman Memorial Hospital (Moscow, Idaho)  
Hysham, Montana  
Idaho Air National Guard  
McCall, Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho  
Paradise Point (near McCall, Idaho on Payette Lake)  
Payette Lake (Idaho)  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Princeton University  
St. Andrews by the Lake (McCall, Idaho)  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Moscow, Idaho)  
Watts, California